Mr. Ishmael Beah

c/o Sarah Crichton Books

Farrar, Stratus and Giroux

19 Union Square West

New York, New York 10003

5030 Duck Creek Road

Cincinnati, Ohio 45227

Dear Mr. Beah,

I learned many things from reading *A Long Way Gone*. This book taught me that the children who were child soldiers saw many people (maybe even their family and friends get killed by the rebels). This book also educated me about the brutality of the people. One example is when the rebels killed people for doing nothing. Finally this book taught me about the food the people of Sierra Leone eat and how they eat the food with their hands. The people of Sierra Leone eat rice and sometimes chicken.

A quote I found that was meaningful was when he said, “ I feel as if there is nothing left for me to be alive for.” (page 167) This is meaningful to me because at that point in time he felt as if there was no point in life and no reason for him to still be alive. He felt this way because all his family had got killed and he was the only one, plus he had been through so much with the rebels and with them being forced to be become child soldiers then having to go to the rehabilitation center. So that is why that quote was so meaningful.

The United Nations created a document called the UN Declaration of Human Rights of people around the world. Clearly, what happened to Ishmael Beah violated #3 “Everyone has the right to life and liberty” and #5 “No one shall be subjected to torture of any kind”. Since the issue of child soldiers continues today, I feel that the government can actually try to fix and enforce the rules better. That’s what I think should be done to help address this problem.

Sincerely,

Kearra Riley